

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A discovery tool that can take the form of a method, system, and/or medium for retrieving and storing information about devices of a communications network is provided. The discovery tool is protocol specific rather than device specific and includes a set of device-configuration files, a generic network-element interface, and a generic resolver. The generic resolver chooses a generic network-element interface based on a protocol compatible with a specific network device. The method includes determining a protocol-specific interface module to communicate with a network device, establishing a logical connection with the network device, determining which configuration file should be used to interrogate the device, and then using the configuration file to interrogate the device and thereby receive device-attribute data related to the device.